

the situation, and we will continue to provide the necessary assistance as additional needs become evident.

NOTE: This statement was part of a White House press release on the release of emergency funds for California earthquake recovery and other recent disasters.

**Proclamation 6657—National
Agriculture Day, 1994**
March 18, 1994

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The early days of spring mark the time when nature quickens its pace from winter to begin another season of vigorous growth. A green carpet of emerging leaves and sprouting crops unfolds from the shores of the Gulf of Mexico across the rest of this great land, as the advancing springtime Sun gently warms the Earth. We Americans owe much to this annual season of renewal, and citizens around the world join with us in eager anticipation of our land's rich harvest.

Our Nation's 20 million farmers, farmworkers, harvesters, processors, shippers, marketers, retailers, and equipment providers help to sustain our country's reputation as the breadbasket of the Earth. In 1992, American agriculture accounted for 18.5 percent of international agricultural trade, reflecting the quality and productivity that has made our produce the finest in the world. Hard-working Americans have long helped to place food on the tables of the hungry. Last year alone, the United States donated over \$2 billion worth of food aid to those in need around the globe.

In addition to meeting the demands of the planet's vast population, our prodigious agricultural team contributes much to our national life, creating jobs and shaping the daily experiences of millions of Americans. Our Nation was built by farmers' steady hands, and we are forever indebted to these dedicated pioneers for their diligence and persistence.

National Agriculture Day is a celebration of the ongoing partnership between human-

ity and nature. Each day, we embrace new innovations in agricultural products and tools that widen consumer choice, create jobs, strengthen rural areas, and help to make the United States more competitive in the global economy. We express our deep appreciation to the agriculture community and, together, we hope for another bountiful season.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 163, has designated March 20, 1994, as "National Agriculture Day," and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 20, 1994, as National Agriculture Day. I call on the people of the United States to recognize the members of our national food and fiber team, whose hard work has helped our Nation to grow and prosper. I encourage all Americans to show their appreciation for our plentiful and dependable food supplies through appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:08 p.m., March 21, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 23.

**Statement by Director of
Communications on the President's
Telephone Conversations With
President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and
King Hussein of Jordan**
March 18, 1994

President Clinton called President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and King Hussein of Jordan this afternoon to discuss developments in the Middle East peace process. President Asad informed the President that he had consulted with the leaders of Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon and that they had agreed that bilateral peace process negotiations with Israel would

resume in April. President Asad noted that the Arab leaders took this decision in the context of their support for the U.N. Security Council resolution on Hebron and to enhance efforts to improve the security of the Palestinians and to advance the overall negotiating process toward a comprehensive and lasting peace.

King Hussein expressed his support for the resumption of negotiations and his hopes for progress. President Clinton noted that the United States would be consulting with the Russian peace process cosponsor to determine a specific date in April for negotiations to begin.

The President has also welcomed the intensive Israeli-Palestinian contacts which are taking place, including discussions today between Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin. A senior-level Israel-PLO meeting will take place in the coming days and will be announced shortly by the parties.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 13

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria from Air Force One as he traveled to Detroit, MI. In the late afternoon, the President toured the Advance Technology Center at Focus: HOPE.

March 14

In the morning, the President had coffee with Group of Seven Foreign Ministers at the Westin Hotel.

In the afternoon, the President toured the assembly line at Detroit Diesel. In the late afternoon, he traveled to Boston, MA.

In the evening, the President traveled to Nashua, NH, where he remained overnight.

March 15

In the morning, the President traveled to Keene, NH.

In the afternoon, the President toured the Markem Corp. Following a visit to the town square, the President traveled to Ft. Drum, NY.

In the evening, the President met with military personnel who recently returned from Somalia and their families at the home of Ft. Drum Base Commander Gen. David C. Mead. The President returned to Washington, DC, later that evening.

March 16

In the morning, the President met with officers of the National League of Cities. He then met with representatives from Boy Scouts of America.

The President declared a major disaster exists in Kentucky and ordered Federal funds be released to help communities in the State recover from winter storms which occurred from February 9 to 11.

The President also declared a major disaster exists in Delaware and Maryland and ordered Federal funds be released to help communities in those States recover from severe ice storms and flooding which occurred from February 8 to 18.

The President announced his intention to nominate William T. Coleman as General Counsel for the U.S. Army.

March 17

In the afternoon, the President and Prime Minister Albert Reynolds of Ireland went to Capitol Hill where they attended a St. Patrick's Day luncheon hosted by Speaker of the House Thomas Foley.

The White House announced that in the afternoon the President had telephone conversations with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria to discuss the Middle East peace process.

The White House announced the withdrawal of the nomination of Stephen J. Solarz to be U.S. Ambassador to India and that the President asked him to serve as the President's Special Representative on Sudan.

The White House announced the appointment of Thomas B. Ross as Special Assistant to the President, Senior Director for Public